

REMARKS

The claims are 1-64, with claims 1, 2, 27, 28 and 40 being independent.

Claims 54 and 55 have been amended to correct their dependency. Support for this amendment may be found, inter alia, in claims 54 and 55 in the original specification.

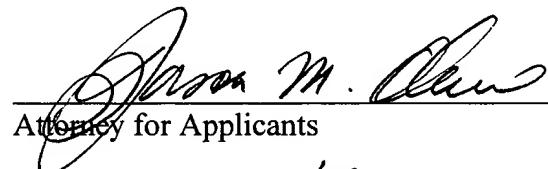
New claims 63 and 64 have been added. Support for these new claims may be found, inter alia, in claim 16 and throughout the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Consideration of the present claims and early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

Application No. 09/741,332
Attorney Docket No. 03500.014996

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 54 and 55 have been amended as follows:

54. (Twice Amended) The apparatus for decomposing a polluted gas according to claim 52 [53], wherein the polluted soil-containing means or the stirring means is provided with a concentration-measuring means for measuring the concentration of a gas emitted from the polluted soil contained therein.

55. (Twice Amended) The apparatus for decomposing a polluted gas according to claim 52 [53], wherein the heating means or the stirring means is controlled depending on the measured values of the concentration-measuring means for measuring the concentration of the gas emitted from the polluted soil.